

Retirees are ready to help young people with careers

On September 23, the Clyde Jordon Senior Center in East St. Louis was a picture of cooperation and collaboration that left a lasting impression. The local coordinators of education-to-careers and welfare-to-work were in deep conversation with the coordinators of the RSVP and Foster Grandparent programs. Their working together was framed by 23 retired seniors from business, labor, and the community, also in deep conversation about how they could help young people prepare for careers.

Good common sense advice has been the result of this focus group and 9 others held throughout Illinois. For more ideas from 200+ retirees see "What We Can Do" coming in November.



Retirees from business and labor in East St. Louis suggest ways that they can help with education-to-careers and welfare-to-work.

Illinois Board of Higher Education Emphasizes Cooperation in Citizens Agenda

During the coming months, the Illinois Board of Higher Education and its staff will consult with college and university administrators and trustees, advisory committees, leaders in business and industry, and many others to build consensus on strategic goals that will guide their response to the challenges and opportunities of the next decade. The Board will also conduct surveys of the general population, opinion leaders, university seniors, and employers to enrich this agenda. See goals on page 8.

Technology is linking the generations



An intergenerational technology program at Washington School in Springfield

LIFELONG promotes K-16 partnership

The LIFELONG coalition begins a new dialogue on November 12 when they invite educators K-16 who involve older adults. See page 2

We joke about the Internet and how older people are afraid of it. This may be the world's greatest myth. Older adults are eager to learn about technology, and teachers have discovered that young people love to teach them. Technology is bringing generations closer though programs around the state. (See pages 12-15.)

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The Illinois Intergenerational Initiative is a coalition of individuals and organizations committed to:

- Publicizing the good news about intergenerational activities
- Serving as proponents for collaborative efforts between generations
- Fostering alliances that enhance education at all levels
- Involving young and old in solving public problems through civic involvement

The Initiative is a Higher Education Cooperation Act partnership funded by the Illinois Board of Higher Education. The following education and aging organizations are partners:

- American Association of Retired Persons
- Chicago State University • Council of IL Community College Presidents • Eastern Illinois University • Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities
- Governors State University • Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents
- Illinois Association of School Boards
- Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents • Illinois Association of Senior Centers • Illinois Coalition on Aging • Illinois Community College Board • Illinois Community College Trustees Assoc • Illinois Community College Council of Presidents • Illinois Corporation for National & Community Service • Illinois Department on Aging • Illinois Department of Children and Family Services • Illinois Department of Corrections • Illinois Department of Human Services • Illinois Department of Public Health • Illinois Elderhostel
- Illinois Principals Assoc. • Illinois PTA • Illinois Retired Teachers Association • IL Assoc. of Rural and Small Schools • Illinois State Board of Education • Illinois State Library • Illinois State University
- Northeastern Illinois University • Northern Illinois University • Service Corps of Retired Executive • Southern Illinois University System • University of Illinois System • Western Illinois University

Continuance is a quarterly publication providing information about intergenerational activities and programs thus promoting a continuance of history, knowledge, understanding, and humor between generations. The newsletter is a collaborative effort of the thirty-three partners listed above. Illinois Intergenerational Initiative, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Editor, Jane Angelis; Research, Yusri Hussein; Graphics, Sharon Granderson, Instructional Support Services, Library Affairs; Word Processing, Maxine Miller, Staff

Understanding the educational system

In the 1987 publication, College, Ernest Boyer said he was convinced that “the nation’s education structure should be a seamless web.” In the 1998 Illinois educational system, one gets a sense that educators are busily weaving the webs that Boyer envisioned. For example, interviews with the community college leadership yielded oft spoken words, such as connect, bridge, link, and urged relief from walls and barriers.

Our ongoing series describes the educational system in Illinois and at the same time celebrates the support of our partners since 1986. In the last issue we described the leadership of public universities and their view of the future. This issue looks at community college leaders and organizations and why community colleges are one of the “best kept secrets.”



Jane Angelis, Editor

Views of the Candidates

Politics is on everyone’s mind as we inch toward the November election. In this issue, we present interviews with the gubernatorial candidates, Glen Poshard and George Ryan and the Secretary of State candidates, Al Salvi and Jesse White. They discuss their views on family, generations, and the role of older people in education and service.

UN Year of the Older Person

We have seen our world get smaller with technology. I can send an Email message to my son and daughter in Australia and in seconds they can respond. We can connect students from several continents in a distance learning class, or watch breaking stories on the Internet. Technology will be a key component in the UN International Year of the Older Person, alerting the world to the potential of older people as valuable resources. (See pages 16-17) - Editor

Coming: Winter Issue

A View of K- 12 Educational Leadership

Civic Involvement. Is It an Intergenerational Must?

The Findings of the Educational Interests of Older Adults

Quality Out-of-School Time: A View from the Child Care Network and the Service Network

An Interview with Alexandre Sidorenki, Chair, UN International Year of the Older Person

Excerpts from “What We Can Do,” a Report on 10 Focus Groups Involving Retired Business People

● Coming November 12 ● LIFELONG Invites Educators PreK-16

● LIFELONG Learning and Service it Community Colleges was initiated in 1985 to share information about programming and service opportunities for older adult! on community college campuses.

● On November 12, members of LIFE. LONG invite educators PreK-16 who work with older adults to share information about older adult programming, older adults as volunteers, and a May event to highlight Best Practices PreK-16.

● The agenda includes presentations by Joe Cipfl, ICCB, “Building Partnerships; Jan Ignash, “IBHE Study on Educational Needs of Citizens;” and results from the “Education Interests of Older Adults Survey.” For information, contact Gene Verdu, 618-234-4410 - See page 19

Illinois Community College Board

John Gardner, in *On Leadership*, offers an analogy for the initiatives fostered by the Illinois Community College Board: "One is bound to believe that there occurs at breathtaking moments in history an exhilarating burst of energy and motivation, of hope and zest and imagination, and a severing of the bonds that normally hold in check the full release of human possibilities. A door is opened and the caged eagle soars." Joe Cipfl describes new momentum to address such issues as core values and leadership, teaching and learning, and the vital need for cooperation across the educational spectrum.

Background

My mother and father were the key individuals in my life. They were parents, role models, and good friends. They had a high level of expectation for me and that motivated me to excel. The importance of education was always stressed and has always been and will always be an important part of my life.

When I was a teenager, I had the opportunity to become a manager of a quick-food restaurant and enjoyed a level of success in managing a small business as well as motivating and encouraging others." That experience was a herald of things to come as through the years, Cipfl became a teacher, a principal, a superintendent, a community college president, and head of the Illinois Community College Board, his current position.

Challenges for Community Colleges

1. We need to make sure that education is accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality. We must measure productivity and efficiency.
2. Education will no longer be simply a commodity for the young person; we are all lifelong learners.
3. The technology revolution is changing our place of work and the way we work.
4. Community colleges will become the primary provider of training and retraining of nontraditional students. We have the largest number of traditional 18-19-20-



**Joe Cipfl, President and CEO
Illinois Community College Bd.**

year-old students ever but have incredible numbers of older people back in the learning process raising the average age to 31.

5. Community colleges will be human resource and economic and regional development hubs for the areas they serve. They will support local residents who want to explore new economic opportunities, update skills, and pursue avocational interests. Community colleges will be a resource and information center for community and area employers.

6. In the future, community college boundaries will be less visible. New relationships and partnerships will eliminate the duplication of services and the idea that each community college can be everything to all people.

Older Adults on Campus

We need to tap the skills, interests, and talents of older adults. Community colleges are the perfect vehicle for this. We should provide opportunities to all levels of education for older adults as great resources. We need to examine their fears and create partnerships and opportunities with them to break those fears. I will spearhead that movement so that we can involve older members in the daily lives of community college students throughout the state. The support for bringing older adults to campus begins with me.

Those seeking to involve older adults on campus need to engage administrators in conversation, identify success stories, and examples at other colleges. Don't underestimate chief administrators, they may be more supportive than you think.

Civic involvement

It's not by accident that community is in our title. We are a college for the community and work to enhance the quality of life in a community. We work to hasten awareness so that people realize the need to be involved. Community colleges are committed to making communities a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Advice to students

Make certain that you maximize your learning experience. You will have an opportunity in the classroom with small student-teacher ratios to engage teachers in dialogue.

Returning adults, don't fear of the unknown. You are welcome and we have support systems to help you.

Illinois Community College Board

The Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) is the state coordinating board for community colleges. Its mission is to administer the Public Community College Act in a manner that maximizes the ability of the 40 community college districts (49 colleges) to serve their communities, promote cooperation within the system, and accommodate State of Illinois initiatives that are appropriate for community colleges.

The Board consists of eleven members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate for six-year terms. One student member is selected by the ICCB Student Advisory Committee for a one-year term. The Board Chair is selected by the Governor.

The Illinois Community College Board office houses a President/Chief Executive Officer and a staff of approximately 35 individuals who assist the Board in carrying out its many responsibilities.

Some people are challenged by math, some by puzzles, some by a mountain peak. Harry Crisp is challenged by work. "I have the ability to fall in love with work, no matter what kind it may be." Crisp associates work with accomplishment and believes that work comes before education. "Education gives you the ability to surpass what you would normally do, but if you are not willing to work hard, it won't matter how much education you have."

Background

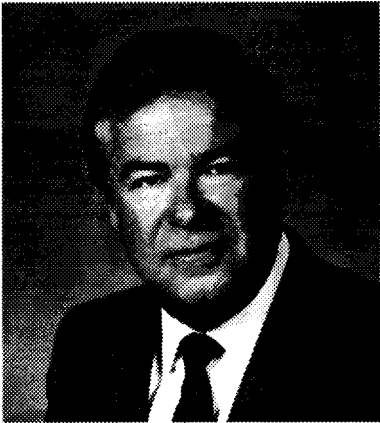
My grandfather was in the grocery business and then sold chicken and eggs. My parents lived in a small apartment above the hatchery. In those days you didn't have automatic machines to turn the eggs, so it had to be done manually. My parents got up during the night to turn the eggs. My father also started selling soft drinks with the chickens, called Rooster Beverages. Then an important event happened that changed our lives. The plant that was bottling the soft drinks went broke. My father started bottling soft drinks and soon he was offered the Pepsi franchise. He took it and built a business from scratch.

I have had many mentors in my life, with good friends to advise and counsel. Most of us learn by following good examples. My mentors have shown me how to live, think, and embrace important values.

Challenges for Community Colleges

1. The greatest challenge comes from within; that is, the ability to adapt and change for the common good. It is easy to say that we need to think about students and taxpayers. We need to tear down the walls around higher education and take our product to the students. We need to make education available to all by cutting costs and serving the public where the need is great..
2. We need cooperative efforts with community colleges and multi-campus universities, offering courses, using interactive TV, and making education more available to the public.
3. We need to address core values and leadership. One of our biggest problems our campuses face is alcohol abuse and drug abuse. The young adults in our dormitories and on our campuses cannot be constantly supervised and regulated. We need the tools and mechanisms to help them properly supervise and regulate themselves

Illinois Community College Board



**Harry Crisp, Chair
Illinois Community College Bd.**

and the infusion of core values into the fabric of campus life will help.

Civic involvement

There is no question in my mind that public service is an obligation and a privilege for all of us. We all need to be involved with society. We gain more that we give. For example, I have been involved with community colleges for 32 years. I have learned new things, met new people, and become a more well rounded person.

Older adults on campus

The average community college student is 31 years old. That indicates the strong desire of many people beyond traditional college age to continue formal learning. They need to learn coping with new technology or with new job-skills or just want to learn for the sheer job of knowing more than they do now. Lifelong learning is happening. Our community colleges continue to de-

velop great programs to help older adults in their quest for more knowledge.

Advice to Students

Get job experience in the field you are interested in to find out if that is, in fact, what you would like to do in your career.

History of the Illinois Community College Board

Early in the 1960s, the Illinois Board of Higher Education was given the mandate to study the development of a junior college system in the state of Illinois. By then there were roughly 20 junior colleges. In July of 1964 the Commission published a final report. The next major step in implementing the recommendations of the master plan was initiated by Governor Kerner in early 1965. The legislation was introduced in the 74th General Assembly as House Bill 1710: An act in relation to the establishment, operation, and maintenance of public junior colleges.

The Junior College Act of 1965 passed the senate without a negative vote and the senate concurred. Signed July 15, 1965. In mid August of 1965, Gov. Kerner appointed the new "State Junior College Board." The first meeting of the state junior college board was convened in the office of the Board of Higher Education, Sept. 6th 1965 in Springfield. Gerald Smith was appointed as Executive Secretary.

**Illinois Community College Board
Founded 1965
Publication Excel**

Facts on Community Colleges

- Illinois community colleges account for 60% of all undergraduate students enrolled in Illinois public higher education.
- Illinois is the third largest community college system in the country.
- The average community college student pays only \$1200 per year in tuition and fees.
- Community colleges offer training in over 240 different occupations.
- Nearly 33,000 students enrolled in community colleges last year had previously earned a baccalaureate or higher degree.

Illinois Community College Trustees Association

"I had two defining moments that helped me realize I wanted to be a teacher. The first was when I was 10 years old. I prepared a speech for a 4H contest about shining shoes. I won the contest, beating out many older kids. The judge said, "That little kid with the glasses had the best speech and he sure has the gift of gab." The second came when my brother, who was always very critical of me, acknowledged my Sunday school teaching, "You did a great job."

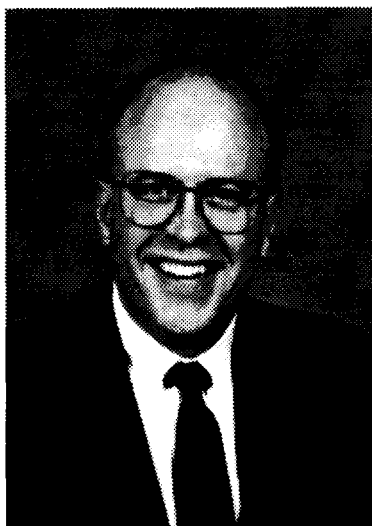
Background

My parents were high school teachers and had a love affair with education and believed in schools. My dad was a school board employee and now so am I. I learned about boards at a young age when my father would leave our baseball game to attend a board meeting. Board members give up a lot and families are amazingly supportive about individuals getting involved. The commitment to educational boards is a secret ingredient of American education.

The first college president that I worked for was able to redirect people in a gentle way. I discovered that you don't need to be angry to deal with the failures of others. This college president was able to be nurturing and forceful at the same time. The model of his example is as important as anything I've ever read on leadership.

Challenges for Community Colleges

1. The greatest challenge is to make sure that everything we are doing is of the highest quality. Society has reached the point that they are not ready to accept anything less. We produce these little jewels of excellence that shine brightly and that's what we must keep doing.
2. We need to rejuvenate faculty continuously so that we have a core that understands our mission and is committed to quality.
3. We need to keep education affordable. A lot of people misjudge the cost of a community college education. We need to remind everyone how affordable and accessible we are.
4. We need more cooperation so that the walls between community colleges and



**Gary Davis, Executive Director
Illinois Community College
Trustees Association**

universities aren't so high.

Older Adults on Campus

There are a tremendous number of vital, skilled people past the age of 60 who would make great faculty, good tutors, and we haven't adequately tapped that resource. Trustees can be helpful and can speak up for and about older adults. There are many able older people. For many, there is the idea that college is for younger people, but it isn't just for younger people.

Civic Involvement

A good rule for volunteerism is, "We don't need to structure it, we need to recognize it!" "A lot of volunteerism is unrecognized. Non-traditional students take courses and then coach Little League or help in the community. Often volunteers don't have support from employers. They resent it a little when an employee is off doing service in their child's school or helping repair the pool at the Y.

Advice to students

Aim high. Don't sell yourself short. Community college students have become astronauts, governors, business executives. You have access to some of the best resources and best teaching.

Beginnings of the Illinois Community College Trustees Association

*Excerpts from The Peoria Massacre
by Ray Brune
from Illinois Trustee, Fall 1997*

When the formation of today's community college system began in the 1960's, the IL Association of Junior and Community Colleges (IAJCC) already existed. It had served as a state-wide organization for the handful of junior colleges operated by high school districts. As new community colleges were formed, they joined the IAJCC. Those of us who were trustees of the new college districts were so busy bringing the new districts into being, planning campuses, etc., that we paid scant attention to what was happening to the IAJCC.

That changed on a weekend in early May 1970 at what would prove to be the last annual meeting of the IAJCC held at the Pere Marquette Hotel in Peoria. Four divisions had been created — administrators, students, faculty, and trustees. The trustees were in the minority and disagreed with the issues that the other groups approved unanimously. The trustees in attendance unanimously agreed a new organization of trustees was needed.

John M. Lewis of the Carl Sandburg College board took the lead in calling trustees together to set up a new organization. Its formation turned the community colleges into a cohesive force for the first time. It provided a forum for them to discuss common problems and seek solutions. It has grown and matured over the years, and today provides a myriad of services, including new trustee orientation among others. The first executive director was L.H. Bumey Horton. He later became president of Kankakee Community College.

**Illinois Community College Trustees
Association
Founded: 1970
Publication: Illinois Trustee**

Illinois Council of Community College Presidents

The Council of Presidents is comprised of the presidents of each of the 49 community colleges in the Illinois community college system. The council is advisory to the Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Community College Trustees Association, and other state agencies.

Current Priorities

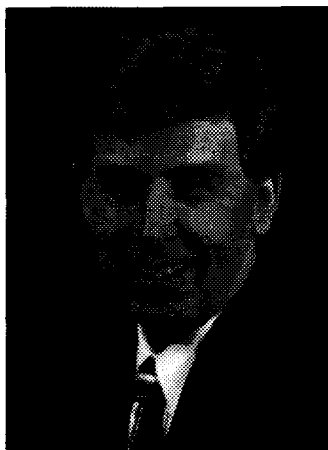
1. Our top priority is to define our role as a system with the virtual campus. There is a great deal of competition from outside the state, and there are many issues in cyberspace education that must be addressed. We must ask such questions as: What should be the configuration? What will be the relationship with four-year colleges? What courses should be taught? How should credentialing proceed?

2. We are entering an age of cooperation whereby community colleges and four-year colleges and universities are working together for the betterment of higher education and its students. Such initiatives as the Illinois Articulation Initiative and on-going articulation with four-year colleges and universities ensure that our students transfer without losing credits.

3. We must further examine financial aid and extend the aid to part-time students who are taking fewer than six hours. Adults are returning to community colleges to complete degrees or to take a course, and often need financial assistance. Board of Higher Education members, Ray Brune and Bob English, who recently spoke to the Presidents Council, talked about the need for aid to part-time students. The Illinois Student Assistance Commission is being asked to seek appropriations in the next budget.

4. State appropriations are no longer based strictly on full-time equivalents, but now require community colleges to be more accountable. Such criteria as credentialing, student satisfaction, and job placement are tied to performance-based funding.

5. Workforce investment and preparation are important missions for community colleges. Today's workforce must be trained and retrained. Community colleges have an excellent relationship with the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs and JTPA. These relationships will only be strengthened as we all work to-



**Robert K. Luther,, President
IL Council of Community
College Presidents**

gether toward a one stop shop.

Challenges for Community Colleges

1. We need to continue to expand our use of technology and better meet the needs of people who are time and place bound.

2. We must step out of the "traditional thinking box" and consider education in this new era of delivery. We are teaching critical-thinking skills and collaboration. As educators, we don't make widgets; we make changes in attitudes, which is called knowledge.

Older Adults on Campus

Most Illinois community colleges offer free tuition to senior citizens. We should take advantage of their years of experience. We couldn't turn to a better group than older people to help instill core values.

Leadership initially comes from the top. If community college presidents invite seniors to become part of the institution, then vice presidents and deans and others on campus will reflect that behavior. We should share best practices with one another and publicize the models that have worked.

Robert K. Luther is President of Luke Land College. He is well known for his leadership in economic and community development and was appointed to the Illinois Human Resource Investment Council by Governor Jim Edgar:

Illinois Community College Faculty Association

What is the Illinois Community College Faculty Association?

The association is comprised of community college faculty and is a voice that represents the ideas of faculty throughout the state. We have direct involvement with ICCB initiatives and discuss the type of input that we can share. We have a network of campus coordinators, one on each campus. We distribute information to campus coordinators and gather faculty input. The executive committee meets monthly, and we communicate with campus coordinators through mail, Email, conference calls, and in person.

What is your mission?

The Community College Faculty Association was formed to serve as an advisory organization to the Illinois Community College Board. They wanted to make certain that faculty were involved. We don't agree on all issues, but we do find consensus and speak with a single voice on most issues. We discuss legislation, teaching/learning, and have succeeded in creating communication that didn't exist at times in the past.

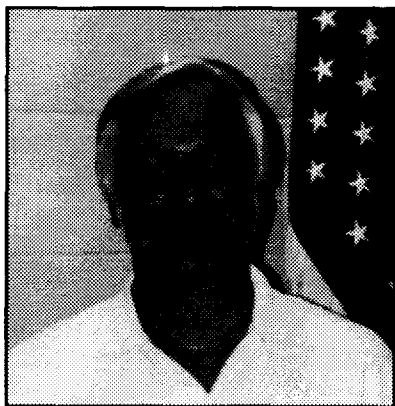
How is the president selected?

Delegates are elected by their own campuses. In turn, delegates nominate members to serve on the executive committee and an election takes place yearly. The new president's term begins at the end of October, usually during the Teaching and Learning Conference.

The Teaching and Learning Conference is primarily faculty driven. We select presentations that are best able to represent the system and reflect those pertinent issues that relate to teaching and learning. We are getting more and more registrations (300 at the last conference); in fact, many universities are attending to learn more about community colleges.

Challenges for Community Colleges

1. An initiative that gets to the core of the educational process, preparing students for the workforce and responding to the needs



**Bruce L Conners, President
Illinois Community College
Faculty Association**

of society is leadership and core values. A steering committee was formed and we will have discussions about how the idea can be implemented on each of our campuses. Harry Crisp and Joe Cipfl have spearheaded this initiative.

2. We are experiencing a transition in which many faculty are retiring. New faculty need to recognize that education does not take place only within the confines of the classroom.

Older Adults on Campus

I think older adults are assets in our communities. They are retiring earlier and come from education and business acting as ambassadors who validate what we are doing. The leadership to involve older adults on campus comes from faculty in specific program areas, from advisory boards, and from presidents when they talk to service clubs. There is only one thing retirees need to hear to get them on our campuses. "We need you, your input, your expertise, and your advice."

Civic Involvement

We look for ways to increase and enhance the curriculum. The best way is to get out into the community and bring the community on campus. Older people have a responsibility to give back and share time with us--and they do.

Bruce Conners is Chair of Business Technologies at Kaskaskia College in Centralia.

City Colleges of Chicago

It isn't often that an educator credits his children with his success, but that is the case with Wayne Watson. "My three children contributed much to my career because they were supportive and allowed me to focus on my job. If they had behavior problems. I would have had to focus on that and would not be chancellor today."

Background

My parents were always supportive of education and helped me set goals. My mentor was Oscar Shabat, who was the first chancellor of City Colleges. He hired me and gave me the example of a good leader. My older brother was also a mentor. He has always had strong principles and was an example of strong work ethic as he entered management at Commonwealth Edison.

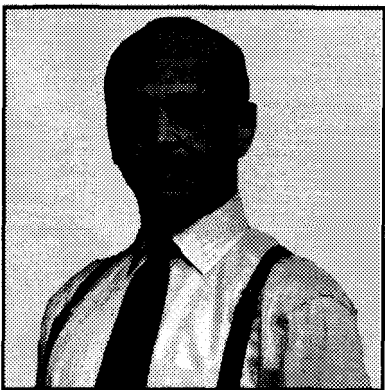
I have been with the City Colleges district for 20 years, the president of two colleges, vice president of a third college, and vice chancellor of academic affairs for the system. My Ph.D. is in Educational Administration from Northwestern University.

Challenges for Community Colleges

- 1. We need to assist in improving quality of life by preparing students to go on to four-year colleges and universities.
- 2. We need to prepare students to get into the workforce.
- 3. We must assist citizens in getting promotions in their current jobs.
- 4. We need to provide students with a vehicle to continue their education in terms of value-added education. For example, we can provide additional courses if they need to learn more about basic skills or if they need to know more about computers.

Older Adults on Campus

- 1. A number of older adults are interested in retraining for a different job once they have retired. They say, "I can contribute in another job," and a community college presents an excellent opportunity to prepare for that second career. The older population is a real market that we have to pursue.



**Wayne Watson, chancellor
city colleges of Chicago**

2. Older individuals bring maturity and experience that could be useful to community colleges. Young people need to have strong role models found in older people and they need someone who listens. Involving older adults on campus isn't that complicated; you don't need to set up a bureaucracy. Keep it simple.

Civic Involvement

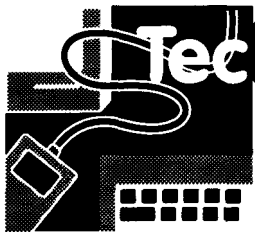
We are pushing for voter registration. Participation in the electoral process is important in Chicago. It is part of our civic duty and shows a mature person. While not a popular stance, we are also supportive of making service learning a part of the curriculum. We will tie it to an academic course so that someone majoring in social services will have that hands-on experience. Or if someone majors in education there will be access to teaching and learning experiences in schools. Some faculty are supportive, others are reticent.

Facts about City Colleges of Chicago

The City Colleges of Chicago (CCC) is a comprehensive urban community college district. The City Colleges' educational mission is to prepare students for transfer to four-year colleges and universities, provide workforce preparation for employment, and provide remedial and basic education to adults.

In Fall 1997, CCC served over 80,000 students: 68% enrolled part-time, 61% were women, the average student age was 31, 57% had part-time or full-time jobs, Students goals varied, including learning English-as-a-Second-Language (25%), developing technical skills/employment opportunities (26%), transfer education (18%), or personal interest.

City Colleges is comprised of 7 colleges.



Technology is linking Generations

Give Peace a Chance

by Margaret Johnson, Technology Coordinator
Palos District 118, Palos Park

"Give Peace a Chance," is an intergenerational **Email** partnership between senior citizen residents of Peace Memorial Village and fourth grade classes at Palos West Elementary School. Students correspond electronically on a weekly basis with eight residents of Peace Memorial Village located almost directly across the street from the school. The project is led by Mrs. **Debi** Pope, a tireless and enthusiastic teacher and was originally funded by an Illinois State Board of Education Building-Based Innovations Through Technology Grant.



Residents of Peace Memorial Village connect with students on **Email**

Peace residents have been actively involved in programs at Palos West for over a decade, volunteering to listen to children read aloud, helping in the media center, and even providing carpentry skills. The **email** project, however, is unique in that students and teachers have visited the Peace Village site to provide instruction, encouragement, and ongoing support as the Peace participants practice their computer skills and send their weekly **email** messages to the fourth graders. The computer used for the **email** project is located in Peace Village's Activity Center and was purchased by the management of Peace Village as their in-kind contribution in the original grant partnership. Peace also installed and continues to maintain the phone line necessary for sending the digital messages, and Activity Director Charlotte Clark has been wonderfully supportive of the project.

Mrs. Pope, beams as she describes how her students "feel very special as adults other than their relatives pay attention to them and treat their questions with respect." Mrs. Pope adds that the **email** partners often develop friendships based on mutual respect. 708-448-4800

Learning about nutrition in exchange for learning about computers

by Cheryl Barber
UIUC Office of Continuing Education's Programs for Older Adults

Older adults from Champaign Park District are paired with elementary school children from girls and boys club to teach computer skills as a tool to access nutrition information on the World Wide Web and to enable the participants to make informed and healthy dietary choices. During the first 3 months the adults and children will be taught separately. During the remaining months the two groups will be together and use intergenerational activities to aid in learning and relationship building between the two groups. The project is an Illinois Council on Food and Agricultural Research grant. Other members of the cooperative project include Jim Painter, RD and Director of UIUC Hospitality Management/Quantity Foods Lab, and Paul Schneider, Graduate student and member of the Web Technologies Group. 217-333-1444

Seniors Are Accessing Technology

Denise Faris
Matteson Elementary School District 162

Naomi **Hinton** regularly accompanied her granddaughter to the library where the younger woman would use the computers and Mrs. **Hinton** would observe her work.

"I was fascinated by what she could do," said Mrs. **Hinton**. When **Matteson** Elementary School District 162 offered a computer education program in the schools for senior citizens, I took advantage of it. It's a beautiful program. I like working with young people and my teachers are great. They are very capable."

Mrs. **Hinton** was one of some 90 older adults who joined District 162's Seniors Accessing Technology (SAT) program during the 1996-97 and 1997-98 school years. Through SAT, senior citizens received basic computer instruction in the District's first through eighth grade classrooms from elementary students.

The District launched the intergenerational program to highlight the valuable resources the students and the senior citizens have to offer. While SAT enriched students' learning, it allowed them to develop a relationship with an older adult. SAT also brought senior citizens into the schools so they had a first hand view of the educational program, said Deputy Superintendent Sandra Lynne Schmutzler, who initiated SAT.

"I enjoyed the program," said Robert Desvignes. "I was impressed with the students; enthusiasm and knowledge. They taught me not to be reticent to try something new and to not be afraid to punch a button on the computer. Contact Denise Faris (815) 469-9166.

Students invite senior citizens to "Take a computer course"

by *Bari Levin and Ann Thorns*
Golf Middle School, Niles
From Learn and Serve in Illinois

A free four-week computer course for seniors in the community was offered by Golf School students. Bud Swanson from the Village Hall of Morton Grove helped students make contact with local centers to invite senior citizens to the courses. Seniors were matched with student instructors in the intergenerational experience and the course introduced basic computer usage as well as Windows 97, word processing, Print Shop Deluxe and exposure to the Internet.

Students created informational packets, including a map of the school, personal letters welcoming seniors to the class, a flyer about the program and instructions about how to get to the school. Students also made signs, placed confirmation phone calls, created a **PowerPoint** presentation, administered a survey regarding the class, shopped for supplies, calculated the costs of the course, and reflected on **their** experiences.

Responses from both senior citizens and students have been very positive. One student reported how challenging it was to be a teacher. Another stated that he felt good about changing the way a senior citizen looks at a computer. Still another became involved in understanding more about World War II through conversations with two members of the class.

Responses from seniors was so positive that a second session was developed and started later in the semester. Seniors reported appreciation for having such a good introduction to computers and greater confidence about computers.

For information call 847-065-3740.

School and senior services partnership leads to technology program

by *Stacey Wolf and Karen Sunderlin*
Washington Middle School, Springfield

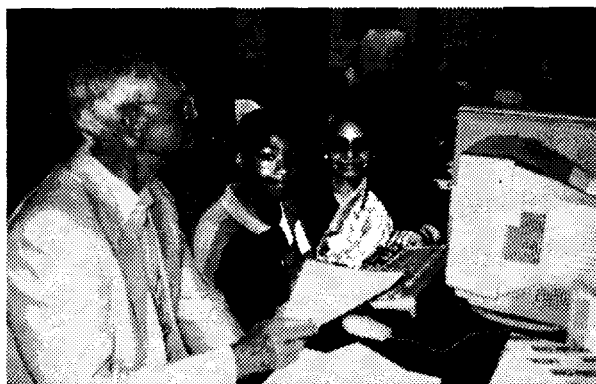
A partnership with the Senior Services of Central Illinois, Inc. and Washington Middle School in Springfield allows for a successful intergenerational experience.

Our project begins in mid-March with a senior citizen panel discussion. A group of seniors (some of whom will later be involved in the computer classes) come to our classroom for a panel discussion, where students are able to ask questions regarding social and historical issues. Next, the seniors come to Washington Middle School for 1 1/2 hours a week for six weeks to participate in computer lessons. The students are responsible for creating weekly lesson plans centered around beginning computer skills, which they present to their assigned senior citizen. Some of the lessons include basic keyboarding, graphics, educational games, templates, slide shows, e-mail, and the internet.

Students love to participate in the project, even though it can be demanding and challenging. Students improve both attendance and behavior, as well as enhance their communication and written skills. In addition to becoming computer "experts", they also meet goals relating to history, English, geography, math and science. They experience the role of a teacher, which makes them empathetic to the amount of patience needed in the profession.

Seniors love this project as much as the students. They become mentors to teenagers, which can be both rewarding and challenging. In addition, they learn about the latest technology.

Additional partnerships include McDonald's, Antonio's Restaurant, and Kula, Cowan, and Barnes, PC. The Learn and Serve grant project takes place at Washington Middle School for approximately 12 weeks. 217-788-6528



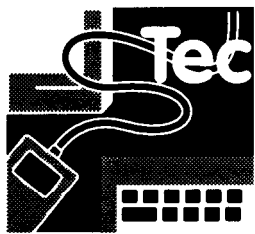
Learning about computers at Washington Middle School in Springfield

Thoughts on Technology

"In our marvel at senior citizens who master the language of cyberspace and meet at **internet** cafes, we often forget that millions of old people never had a chance to read and write their own everyday language. Not an insignificant number of them are on this continent! It is currently estimated that in the United States as well as the United Kingdom, one fifth of all adults are functionally illiterate, which means that they do not have the minimal reading proficiency needed in daily life. In a global context, adult literacy rates have jumped from 48% to 70% over the

last 20-30 years, but there are still marked inequalities by region, age, and gender." Gunhild Hagestad, Professor at Agder College, Norway and professor of Human Development and Social Policy at Northwestern University, Chicago, **Keynote Address**, International Year of the Older Person, New York, October 1, 1998

Today, when I throw **away** a **musical** birthday card, I am tossing out more computer power than **existed** in the **entire** world before 1948. From **Empires of the Mind**



Technology is linking Generations

Computer Tutors Put Vets on the Net!

Arlis Dittmer, Director of Library Services,
Blessing Health Professions Library, Quincy
From Illinois Libraries

With more than 1 million veterans in Illinois, libraries have a large potential pool of people they can target in programming, collection development and community support. Most communities have a local veterans organization and, yet, traditionally the libraries and the veterans have not worked together. Veterans typically are not frequent library users. The project, "Computer Tutors Put Vets on the Net, tapped into this veteran group with much success.

There were two trainers with this project, Bill Erbes from Bensenville Community Library and Shawn Edwards of Alliance, Library System. The **five** participating libraries were each to have five student tutors and five veterans for a total of 50 participants. There were actually 48 participants, 23 veterans and 25 students. The evaluation surveys were returned by 56 % of the participants. The project consisted of two large group workshops (one on the Internet and the other on Web page construction), nine outline lessons (Internet, e-mail, **usenet**, gophers, telenet, chat rooms, and the Web), listserv participation, personal instruction within the libraries, which included tutoring of the veterans by the students, Web page construction and Internet searching. The "Vets on the Net" Web page at www.rsa.lib.il.us/~sedward/vets/resource.htm had 455 hits from March 1997 through June 1997. It is an excellent site, full of valuable information for veterans.

Intergenerational Evaluation

By any indicator of success, this project was successful. It sparked curiosity in widely disparate age groups. It brought new users into the library. It help to make connections between groups in local communities. It fostered community pride and positive public relations. It introduced technology to different age groups, certainly debunking the myth that seniors can't or don't want to learn anything new. It utilized group learning, individual learning and distance learning.

This project, was sponsored by the Alliance Library System, Valerie Wilford, Director, and **Lori** Bell, Project Director and funded by the IL State Library. This project began October 1, 1996, and ended June 30, 1997. Participants included: Eureka Public Library District, Nancy Scott, Director; Ashland Public Library District, Debra Aggertt, Director; Peoria Heights Public Library, Marsha Westfall, Director; Lillie M. Evans Library District (Princeville), Joanne Cox, Director; and Illinois Veteran's Home Library in Quincy, **Lynn** Fleming, Director.

Computer Partners Program

by **Barbara Kurth**
Field Middle School
Northbrook

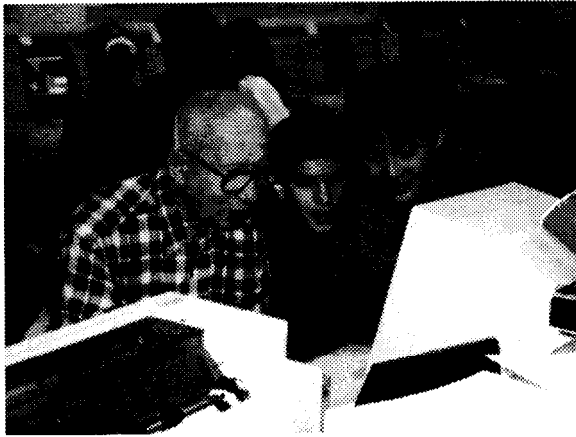
Students at Field School studied how senior citizens were portrayed in literature, television shows, commercials, and magazine ads, as a part of the intergenerational unit in the seventh grade integrated language arts (I.L.A.) classes. As they wrote literature reviews, looked at picture books and wrote poems, collected data and made graphs, the students began to think about what they might do for the senior citizens. The idea of providing the local senior citizens with instruction on how to use computers was suggested.

A three-session program focusing on computer instruction was developed by the seventh grade integrated language arts teachers. Using our middle school resources such as the available computer hardware and software and the Field School staff and students, we were able to create a program that would provide the seniors who enrolled in our program with a hands on experience on a computer.

Goals for Students

1. Establish a one-to-one personalized relationship with a senior,
2. Develop a positive attitude toward older people,
3. Increase self-esteem through the opportunity to teach skills to someone older than themselves,
4. Improve time management skills necessary to be able to participate in and out of class,
5. Strengthen their own computer skills,
6. Develop a better understanding of the role of their own teachers,
7. Receive recognition from their peers, adults, and their community,
8. Discover seniors are patient, appreciative students,
9. Recognize that value of a senior friend and communicate this to their parents and their community,
10. Learn how to work as a team.

If you have an intergenerational program that exemplifies civic involvement, please contact the Illinois Intergenerational Initiative, ili@siu.edu Phone 618-453-1166 or FAX 618-453-4295



You're on the Internet! Great job!
Field School students encourage their student

Goals for the senior citizens

1. Be viewed by the student as older peers who are also learners,
2. Receive students' patient, personalized attention thus eliminating their fear of technology,
3. Become more familiar with the educational facilities and programs which their tax dollars support,
4. Acquire computer skills,
5. Experience a feeling of accomplishment and enhanced self-worth,
6. Receive recognition from students, teachers, school administrators, and peers,
7. To be put at ease by youthful teachers,
8. To view students positively,
9. Meet new friends from the senior center and the school.

Based on our dealings with the local senior groups during the structured intergenerational unit through the integrated language arts classes, a partnership was formed with the Northbrook and **Glenview** Senior Centers and Covenant Village Nursing Center. An "Introduction to Computers" class was listed in the fall schedule. The initial response was enormous with ninety (90) seniors signing up for the twenty-four original openings. An additional class was added and a waiting list formed.

A highlight of this experience was the distribution of a printed personalized certificate for each senior who partici-

pated in the Computer Partners program during a mini graduation ceremony. The certificates were signed by the student partner and presented during the last ten minutes of Session III. It was also at this time that the students presented their partner with their gift of the personalized stationery, a letter written by them to their partner, and a picture of the two of them working at the computer. Following this ceremony while cookies and coffee were being served, all were asked to participate in a evaluation activity.

Based on the success of the Computer Partners Program, the students asked if we could pursue other possible projects that would continue our partnership with the seniors in our community through the local senior centers. The I.L.A. teachers contacted the senior centers looking for suggestions on ways to continue our work and increase the number of senior with whom we could interact. After receiving a needs assessment from the coordinators of the senior centers and discussions with the seventh grade language arts students, it was decided to

research and create a Senior Citizen Discount Brochure.

Students used homework assignments to call local businesses inquiring if they provided a senior citizens discount. All the data received from these calls was combined and divided into categories dealing with such areas as restaurants, clothing, food, recreation, travel, etc. Using a template created by one of the I.L.A. teachers on the networked desktop publishing program in our building, students recorded the information which included the name, address, phone number, specific discount, and contact person. These were then collated and copied. A cover contest was held with winning entry chosen by the seventh grade students. The ninety-three (93) page booklet was then bound by the students for distribution. Four hundred copies were made and distributed to the Northbrook and **Glenview** Senior Centers and Covenant Village Nursing Center. The response from the seniors in the area was remarkable! Students are still receiving notes of thanks from local senior acknowledging their efforts. But most **importantly**, the students feel that they have been empowered by their research and computer skills to really make a difference in the lives of the seniors in their community.

Three Sessions

Session I

Topics:

1. Field's philosophy about using computers
2. Ways computers are used in our District
3. Software exploration:
 - a. Where in the USA is Carmen SanDiego
 - b. Where in the World is Carmen SanDiego
 - c. Oregon Trail
4. Introduction to the Internet

Session II

Topics/Focus:

1. Print Shop Orientation
2. Print Shop Product Production (stationery, letterhead, greeting

cards)

3. Exploring different Search Engines on the Internet

Session III

Topics/Focus:

1. Create personalized letters using word processing and letterhead stationery made at last session using correct friendly letter form
2. "Surfing the Net"
3. Certificates are awarded to senior and student participants
4. Evaluations forms are completed by students and seniors

Time: Each session consisted of one (1) 80 minute I.L.A. block.

What is a society for all ages?

by Kofi Annan, United Nations Secretary-General



UN Secretary General Kofi Annan opens the International Year of the Older Person, Oct. 1, 1998, New York
Lto R Julia Alvarez, Ambassador, Dominican Republic; Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General, Kensaku Hogen, UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, Nitin Desai, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Aurelio Fernandez, Counsellor for Social Affairs, Permanent Mission of Spain to the UN, Helen Hamlin, Chair UN Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on Aging, and Alexandre Sidorenki, Chair, UN Programme on Aging, and International Year of the Older Person
Photo by Jan Costello

A society for all ages is one that does not caricature older persons as patients and pensioners. Instead it sees them as both agents and beneficiaries of development. It honours traditional elders in their leadership and consultative roles in communities throughout the world. And it seeks a balance between supporting dependency and investing in lifelong development.

A society for all ages is multigenerational. It is not fragmented, with youths, adults and older persons going their separate ways. Rather it is age-inclusive, with different generations recognizing and acting upon their commonality of interest.

And a society for all ages is committed to creating an enabling environment for healthy life-styles as people age. This means there are special needs in terms of transportation, housing, and communications. Public health and social services are another consideration. Countries searching for cost-saving public-finance measures might want to think again about cut-backs in these areas, which are particularly harsh on older persons, especially older women.

Just as the potential of youth can be devel-

oped only in the absence of poverty, so too with ageing. Longevity requires wise investments in the earlier phases of life: in childhood, when the imprints and tools of both self-reliance and interdependence are acquired; and in adulthood, when sources of capital are built up-not only economic capital but the human capital of skills and self-knowledge, and the social capital of trust and collaboration.

Indeed, mid-life should be seen more and more as a prelude to an active old age. This means we should invest in mid-life as deliberately as we invest in youth. Pensions are just one form of investment; but even here, as we have seen in developed countries, such systems are increasingly in crisis. Still, developed countries have been able to mature gradually. Developing countries face the challenges of development and aging populations simultaneously.

As the years accumulate, time seems to pass every more quickly. But in fact, and without for a moment forgetting the tragic exceptions generated by vio-

lence, disease, and poverty, for most people around the world lives are lengthening. Life is becoming less like a short sprint and more like a marathon.

“Life is becoming less like a short sprint and more like a marathon.” Kofi Annan

Marathon runners will tell you that completing such a race depends largely on maintaining a healthy life-style, training, and willpower. But they will also confess that there is an intangible element to this often lonely pursuit: that of being in a community of fellow-runners, which can make the difference between fading and finishing. Longevity requires of us the same mixture of practicality and persistence, and the same sense of common purpose.

Longevity also allows more time for reflecting on the meaning of life in these times of rapid change. How often we see experiences and knowledge distilled in later life into deeper understanding and wider tolerance. I am thinking of former antagonists who overcome decades of conflict; of bigots who renounce their earlier, more hateful selves; of new achievements in philosophy and literature.



The International Year of the Older Person

Nothing worthwhile comes easy. Ask Julia Alvarez, Ambassador for the Dominican Republic. She has been a pioneer in promoting attention to older people around the world.



Julia Alvarez
Ambassador to the UN
Dominican Republic

She says, "I aged in place trying to get the Year of the Older Person scheduled." Finally in 1992 the General Assembly approved the event for 1999.

Ambassador Alvarez speaks to the potential of older people. "There is a close connection between the quality of life of the very old and the very young. The positive image of older people must be firmly implanted throughout the world--their worth, their wisdom. We must view our elders with potential throughout their lives.

"The fact that we are getting older should not be seen as a problem, but as an achievement." Nitin Desai

Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs agreed with Ambassador Alvarez, "In this year of celebration, longevity is a success. The fact that we are getting older should not be seen

as a problem, but as an achievement." He also mentioned the environment and how we prepare for generations to come. "We are doing things that will be felt 40 or 50 years from now. In my family, when my grandfather was old, he planted an orchard. It wouldn't benefit him, it was for his children and grandchildren. Now my generation is planting another orchard. It is not for us, it is for our children and grandchildren."

Other Comments

At the time the "Year" will be debating its four chosen core dimensions: situations of older persons, lifelong individual developing, multigenerational relations, and the ageing process, the international community will be dealing in a broad scope, with the consequences of globalization." Aurelio Fernandez, Counsellor for Social Affairs, Permanent Mission of Spain to the UN

"We will coordinate with appropriate organizations to address aging issues, raising public awareness, and encouraging all to include aging needs in social policy consideration." Helen Hamlin, Chair, UN Non Governmental Organizations Committee on Aging and a key force in promoting the Intern'l Yr. of the Older Person.

"I don't like life segmenting but the year of the older person brings in all generations in the celebration." Gordon Klopff, Chair of the 1998 Day of Older Persons

See page 14 for additional quotes and for additional information see the web site:

www.un.org/esa/socdev/iyop.htm

Illinois Celebrates Year of the Older Person



Maralee Lindley, Director, IL Department on Aging and Fourth Vice-Chair of the Committee for the International Year of the Older Person

The international year of the older person will be celebrated extensively in the US. Preparations have been made with a 400-member national committee. Maralee Lindley, Director of the Illinois Department on Aging, was appointed as fourth vice-chair of the US Committee in charge of encouraging and coordinating national interest in the year-long observance. She also serves as a member of the Executive Committee and is the liaison with agencies serving seniors and with local governments.

In Illinois, the International Year celebration will kick-off on October 22 at the James R. Thompson Center in Chicago "Seniors Across the World" will feature an exhibit of native wares and costumes from various countries and intergenerational choirs will lead a special salute on behalf of older people around the world.

The Governor's Conference for Health and Aging, scheduled December 2-4 at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago, will also be launching the international celebration. Several national and state dignitaries will offer remarks and resources, and the national collection of gubernatorial proclamations will be on display.

"In the meantime, we invite the public and private sector, from schools to businesses to local governments, to join with us in celebrating longevity and in thanking those older persons who are making a difference in communities worldwide," Lindley said. If you want to get involved call 800-252-8966

Continuance.....Fall 1998 Page 17

Statistics on the World Population

In the second half of the 20th Century, 20 years have been added to the average life-span

Within 30 years, a third of the population in the more developed countries will be over age 60. The world as a whole will reach the proportion by 2150.

The older population itself is ageing. Today, about 10 percent of the population over age 60 is already age 80 or older; this will rise to 25 percent before the year 2050.

These and other ageing trends are changing family structure. The traditional pyramid in which there are many youth and few elders is giving way to the opposite: an inverse pyramid of one child, two parents, four grandparents and several great-grandparents.

Coalition on Aging stresses vitality and contributions of older adults

Older adults are mostly healthy, socially engaged, contributing members of the community. The population 85+ is the fastest growing adult age group and with that we must ensure that seniors receive the services they need to stay active and involved in their communities.

The Coalition on Aging is a statewide network representing 35+ state and local senior groups. The purpose is to advocate for public to benefit seniors and caregivers. Current president is Charles Warner, IL Association of Adult Day Care Providers, LaGrange.

At a recent retreat, the group looked at longer range issues. In the last census, Illinois had the 6th largest older population. Now it is 7th, which means resources will decline. The issues that are most important to older adults are economic security, access to affordable and quality health care, and long term care. The state coalition hopes to strengthen social security, medicare and medicaid. Mike O'Donnell, Director of the East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging noted, "With elections coming it is a great opportunity to look at new year and new General Assembly. We want to impress on our legislators the importance of community based services. We offer seniors a hand up not a hand out."

The Coalition started in 1986 to make sure that local senior services were adequate and fairly funded by the state of Illinois. "After 12 years, not a whole lot has changed," according to Michael O'Donnell. 309-829-2065

If you have an intergenerational after-school program, please contact the Illinois Intergenerational Initiative, ilii@siu.edu 618-453-1185 or FAX 618-453-4295

**Try the Intergenerational Page
www.siu.edu/offices/iii**

New Resources



Starting Points for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

An overall public awareness effort to provide greater support to grandparent caregivers. In addition to offering help with health, legal, financial, education and child care needs, the guide also addresses issues relating to emotional needs of grandparents raising grandchildren. 1-800-252-8966 for a free copy

National Parent Information Network (NPIN) finds and shares high-quality materials related to parenting and parent involvement in education. The focus is on creating an attractive, widely available resource collection that incorporates graphics and other parent-friendly features of the Internet. 800-583-4135 <http://npin.org> npin@uiuc.edu

Research on Aging, Editor, Angelia M. O'Rand, Sage Publications, 805-499-9774 www.sagepub.com Research on Aging is an interdisciplinary journal that presents current research of value in the development of better policies and practices addressing the evolving needs of mature people.

What We Can Do!

This publication describes how retirees can help young people prepare for careers and welfare to work and reports on 10 focus groups held in Springfield, Chicago, Oakbrook, Momence, Galesburg, Quincy, Carpentersville, Macomb, Carbondale, and East St. Louis, involving retired business people. Coming in November.

Illinois State Curriculum Center

ISCC is a research, referral and resource center providing free service to educators, counselors and administrators. The center houses one of the largest collections of catalogued items in applied technology, applied academics, and teacher/trainer development. This includes textbooks, curriculum guides, audio-visual materials, task lists, brochures, newsletters, and periodicals. The center also has selections on service learning, volunteerism, and intergenerational programming. 800-252-4822 FAX 217-786-6036 iscc@uis.edu <http://www.uis.edu/~iscc>
Illinois State Curriculum Center UIS, Bldg K, Room 80, PO. Box 19243,
Springfield, IL 62794

Intergenerational Housing Opens in Romeoville

As I approached Highpoint Intergenerational Community, the first thing I noticed was the older man with "# 1 Grandfather" on his cap having a delightful time in the playground with a toddler.

Highpoint is the brainchild of Bruno Bottarelli who wanted to create a living environment that brought generations together. He hopes to restore frequent contact between neighbors through his design circles. All ages and socio-economic levels are welcome. A Chicano Tribune article, written by Mary Umberger, called it "a cross between a 70s singles complex and Hull House with a dash of God and the Internet." Highpoint officially opened on September 18. 815-293-3001 or www.highpointcommunity.com.



Notice the hat with Grandpa # 1. The Highpoint Community is designed so that neighbors have an opportunity to be together.

.....Coming!.....

November

- November 5-8, International Conference of the Association for Experiential Education, Lake Tahoe, California, 303-4408844 x 11, info@aee.org
- November 6, Chicago Metropolitan Intergenerational Committee, Nathalie Salmon House, Chicago, Meeting and Tour
- November 6 & 7, Tutor/Mentor Connections Leadership Conference will be held in Chicago, Call 312-467-2889, www.tutormentorconnection.org
- November 6-8, "Generations, 2000 and Beyond," Older Women's League, Washington, DC, 888-233-2864
- November 12, LIFELONG hosts educators K-16 who work with older adults as students or volunteers: Speakers, Joe Cipfl, ICCB, Jan Ignash, IBHE; Springfield, Illinois Community College Board, 410 East Capitol. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Gene Verdu, 618-234-4410
- November 12-13, Creating Cooperation for Community Education, 20th Anniversary Conference, IL Community Educators Association, Carbondale, 618-536-7751
- November 20-22, Lighting the Way, Joint Conference: IL Assoc. of School Boards, IL Assoc. of School Administrators, IL Assoc. of School Business Officials, Chicago, 217-528-9688

December

- December 2-4, "Towards a Society for All Ages," Governor's Conference on Health and Aging, Chicago, Also Special Illinois READS recognition ceremony, 217-785-3387
- December 11, "We the People Hearings," Chicago, Coordinated by Constitution Rights Foundation., 312-663-9057
We the People. . . The Citizen and the Constitution is a national program which develops a comprehensive understanding of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and fosters a greater appreciation of the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
- December 10-13, "Long Term Care Case Management," American Society on Aging, San Diego, 415-974-9600

1999

January

- January 12, National Satellite Video Conference, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Implications for Professionals and Agencies, 888-391-4255
- January 14, Chicago Intergenerational Network, Planning for Spring Workshop, Hull House, 12:15 to 1 Brown Bag and Networking, 1 to 2:30 Meeting, Contact Monica Glaser, 773-525-0395

February

- February 7-10, "Symposium 99: Youth and Communities—Together We Are Stronger," National Network for Youth, Washington, 202-783-7949
- February 13-17, "21st Century: A Time for Excellence and Equity," Association of Teacher Educators Conference, Chicago, Contact Ed Pultorek, 815-722-5327, pultorak@siu.edu
- February 14-26, "Children '99: Countdown to the Millennium," Washington, DC, 202-638-2952

March

- March 12, Alzheimer's Conference. Willowbrook,

April

- April 18-21, National Service Learning Conference, San Jose, National Youth Leadership Council and Service Learning 2000 Center, 650-322-7271

April 23-25, The Heart of Aging in the Heartland, Mid-America Congress on Aging, Chicago, 312-795-8847

- April 28-May 2
Illinois PTA Annual Conference, Celebration of 100th Year

May

- May 13-16, Generations United 10th Anniversary Conference, Washington, DC, 202-662-4283

"Your ideas are important," says Illinois PTA

In an effort to increase community involvement in education, the Illinois PTA is convening 10 forums around the state to gather input from citizens. The event is sponsored by IL PTA, the National Center on Education, and the Joyce Foundation. Anna Weselak, President urges all to attend, We hope to tap the ideas of all ages. Everyone is welcome!" Contact Sharon Voliva, Svoliva@aol.com or 708-841-5053.

The forums will be held Oct. 20, Carbondale
Nov. 12, Quincy, Nov. 13, Joliet, Nov. 14, Berwyn
Nov. 16, South Suburbs of Chicago
Nov. 17, Chicago, Nov. 17, Arlington Heights;
Dec. 1, Lombard, Dec. 2, Moline Valley
Dec. 3, Chicago.

Remembering An Intergenerational Hero

Bob Hawkins contributed to the intergenerational movement by bringing new ideas and challenging us to **think** outside the box. He exemplified Oliver Wendell Holmes notion that "A mind once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original shape."

Bob Hawkins, a communication professor at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, seemed that he had one mission in life, to help people communicate more effectively. He had a gentle but strong voice that made it very easy to understand him and found places in his courses to encourage others to examine how they communicated with others.

Bob was particularly interested in aging and **communicatin** and proceeded in his usual creative fashion to find ways to expand dialogue on the topic. He encouraged colleagues in the Speech Communication Association to start a special section on Communication and Aging. That effort grew into the **first** National Conference on **Communicaton** and Aging that was held at SIU Edwardsville in July 1981. Later Bob and his colleagues, Carl Carlmichael and Carl Botan published a book called *Human Communication and the Aging Process*, to create an awareness of how the aging process presents more and more demands on our ability to communicate.



Bob Hawkins working with colleagues on a Basket Full of Memories, an intergenerational project
L to R: C.J. Sizemore, Dept. of Human Services; Jeanne Flynn, IL State Library; Bob Hawkins, and Joan Wood, Pekin Public Library

Bob's commitment to communication flourished with an interest in intergenerational communication, a topic that he felt received too little attention. He encouraged students to delve into the communication research on intergenerational topics. He began video-tapping intergenerational groups and talking to them to get an idea of the dynamics between generations. When Bob and his wife Corrine traveled they often stayed in youth hostels just to be with other generations.

After retirement Bob continued to demonstrate his love for **the** generations by contributing his expertise and enthusiasm to intergenerational projects such as, A Basketfull of Memories (histories written

by old and young), intergenerational conferences and workshops, in recent months, a medical literacy group, and as a valued advisory member of the Illinois Intergenerational Initiative.

Bob and Corrine were models for involvement after retirement with their biking, swimming, travel, and enthusiastic grasp of life. One of Bob's favorite songs, and one that he frequently used to evoke discussion about communication, was "Memories" from *Cats*.

*"Daylight, I must wait for the sunrise,
I must think **of** the new life
And I **musn't** give in.
When the dawn comes,
Tonight will be a memory too
And a new **day** will begin."*

Josephine Oblinger

As we go to press we remember Joesphine Oblinger, a friend and cheerleader for the intergenerational movement in Illinois. Josephine attended our first intergenerational meeting at Allerton in 1986 and inspired participants with her words of encouragement and challenge to move forward. Josephine enjoyed 85 years of life, always upbeat and postive, even until her last days with a trip to **Ire-**land.

Continuance is a quarterly publication providing information about intergenerational activities and programs thus promoting a continuance of history, knowledge, understanding and humor between generations. The newsletter is a collaborative effort of the thirty-three Higher Education Cooperation Act Partners. *Continuance* is funded by the Illinois Board of Higher Education and is provided free to Illinois residents without charge. The Illinois Intergenerational Initiative is located at SIUC, Mailcode 4341, Carbondale, IL 62901, 618-453-1186, FAX 618-453-4295, Email U64176@UICVM.uic.edu
Web Site: <http://www.siu.edu/offices/iii>

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Carbondale, IL 6290 1

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